

WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
November 12th, 2008

Rich Dilks called the Wenonah Environmental Commission to order at 7:32 PM in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act at the Community Center.

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Rich Dilks (Chair)	X	
Bob Bevilacqua (V. Chair)	X	
Scott Barnes (Sec. / Planning Bd. Rep.)	X	
Scott Birkland		X
Mary Ellen Bush	X	
Dave Kreck	X	
Bill Schnarr		X

Associate Members Present: Frank Eggert, Chuck Forsman

Public Guest Present: Glen Green

Minutes of the October 8th meeting were approved. (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Kreck, AIF)

BUSINESS

- **Public Comment (Glen Green):** Mr. Green reported that the PA Environmental Council is creating water trails along the Delaware from the Water Gap down to the bay. Along with this effort, the Council wants to have public canoe/kayak launch points identified and posted by local organizations. Mr. Green wishes for WEC to designate and post such a launch point. After extended discussion, it was decided Hanisey's Landing is not a good candidate because the underlying land is on a county sewer easement. The only other good location might be Break Back Run near Hayes Avenue, which is on Borough property, but is not very deep.

Mr. Green again raised the possibility of a Canoe/Kayak Race on Mantua Creek (see *September*). Outside organizers (U.S. Canoe Association) would arrange for liability insurance to be paid for from ticket proceeds. The ideal time for this race would be around a Saturday or Sunday in between May and July. Two WEC volunteers would be needed to assist the race organizers. Rich told Mr. Green that the WEC would take his request under advisement and report back to him.

- **Chairman's Report:** A Girl Scout Troop wishes to organize an educational hike on November 20th from 3:30 to 4:45 PM.

Rich received a state Recreational Trails Program grant application. The deadline is December 15th. A 20% match is required, but this can be offset with volunteer labor. Dave suggested that we take pictures and assess trail conditions over the coming year, then apply for a repair materials grant next year. There was general agreement that this was the correct approach to take.

The route of the January 10th Moonlight Hike was discussed. The agreed route is: Eldridge Trail from Pine Street, around the Monongahela Loop Trail, ending up at the Tea House.

Rich suggests a "Come Meet the WEC" theme for the Volunteer Appreciation Night to try to bolster our declining volunteer ranks. A slide show and static exhibits will be offered.

The Vulture Festival educational grant program will be contacting 106 schools to solicit applicants.

On October 27th, Ed Hudson and several other volunteers cleared an enormous fallen tree from the Eldridge Trail. They also removed sediment from underneath a bridge.

Robert Pritchard of Alexander Drive is concerned about a dead oak tree on conservation land which could fall and damage his house. He is willing to contribute financially toward its removal. Chuck suggests that he should donate funds to the WEC, and we will either do the work or arrange for it to be done. The committee agreed to this arrangement.

Mr. Pritchard is also concerned about sediment that continues to wash into Synnott's from Woodbury-Glassboro Road. He is willing to contribute a load of stone to completely rip-rap the channel from the road to the pond. Bob offered the use of a backhoe to spread the stone. The committee agreed to move forward with this work in warmer weather.

Mr. Pritchard felt that some of the trees around Synnott's should be trimmed to reduce leaf accumulation. This does not seem economical due to the height of the trees. He also believes the dam height should be temporarily raised in the fall, then lowered to flush out the leaves.

Regarding Mantua Creek canoe launch points, Chuck mentioned that the former boat dealer location near Route 45 would be a far better location than anywhere in Wenonah.

Regarding the Mantua Creek race proposal, the general sentiment was that the WEC activity calendar is fairly full already. On a voice vote, the commission declined to sponsor such a race for 2009. (Motion: Kreck, Second: Bevilacqua, AIF)

- **Capital Projects (Dave Kreck):** A pump project on Elm Street will put a 3 foot-high pump housing on the drainage easement that leads into Synnott's Pond. One tree in the area must be removed.
- **Council / Legal (Chuck Forsman):** The price of the Comey's Lake fountain project has increased to \$1,344. (See *October.*) It will be taken from next year's budget.
- **Trail Maintenance (Frank Eggert):** The Clay Hill bulkhead has been improved after recent erosion problems. Frank also noted that the beaver dam and aquatic weeds are reducing tidal flows in the area.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:27 PM (Motion: Bevilacqua, Second: Dilks, AIF)